

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 02226 112045Z

66

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 SP-03 USIA-15

COME-00 SWF-02 IGA-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /076 W

----- 115767

R 111815Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7248

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMOASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2226

GENEVA FOR CLAXTON, S/PM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 112325

1. GENERAL COMMENT A. MODERN DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS ARE
FUNDAMENTALLY POLITICAL PROBLEMS. THEY IMPINGE ON EVERY
SECTOR OF POLITICAL AS WELL AS PRIVATE LIFE AND CANNOT BE
SOLVED WITHOUT DIRECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT TO
BRING ABOUT BASIC SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS. THE
COSTA RICAN POPULATION PROGRAM WARRANTS STUDY AS A VIABLE
EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN A LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRY. MORE THAN 42 PERCENT OF WOMEN IN THE FERTILE AGE COHORTS
WHO ARE REGULARLY EXPOSED TO SEXUAL INTERCOURSE USE CONTRA-
CEPTION. PRINCIPLES OF POPULATION ACTIONS IN COSTA RICA
WHICH MAY BE APPLICABLE ELSEWHERE:

A. PROGRAM OFFICIALS NEVER ENGAGE IN CONFRONTATION
POLEMICS OR PUBLIC CONTROVERSY. THEY EXPLAIN THE FACTS OBJECTIVELY.

B. VIGOROUS LOCAL LEADERSHIP HAS CREATED A COMPRE-
HENSIVE COORDINATED EFFORT OF SEVEN GOVERNMENTAL, PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WITHIN CONAPO,
THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR POPULATION AND SEML
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 02226 112045Z

EDUCATION.

C. MAXIMUM EFFORT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GIVEN TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS USING: LEADERSHIP SEMINARS, PLANNED MASS MEDIA (PRESS AND RADIO) CAMPAIGNS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION AS VEHICLES TO GET THE POPULATION MESSAGE ACROSS, ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG PEOPLE. UPWARDS OF 35 PERCENT OF ALL FOREIGN POPULATION ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN EXPENDED ON INFORMATION/EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

D. FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ARE CONSIDERED ONLY PART OF THE PROGRAM AND HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AS INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE NATION'S HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM.

E. ALL EFFORTS POINT TO A COMPREHENSIVE GOVERNMENTAL POPULATION POLICY AS THE IDEAL TO BE DEVELOPED, BUT NOT A SINE QUA NON FOR VIGOROUS ACTION WHICH MUST PRECEED SUCH A POLICY.

2. RE PARA 2A OF REFTTEL, THE UNPRECEDENTED DECLINE AX COSTA RICA'S BIRTH RATE FROM 47.8 PER 1,000 IN 1950 TO 31.5 IN 1972 WILL CONTINUE IF CONAPO LEADERSHIP CAN BRING CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICE TO THE RURAL POPULATION THROUGH A NEW LOW COST PARAMEDIC SYSTEM BEING PUT INTO OPERATION. THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SECTOR HAS ALREADY NOTED THE EFFECT OF FEWER CHILDREN ENTERING PRIMARY SCHOOL THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. A G.E. TEMPO STUDY, "ECONOMIC-DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTION FOR COSTA RICA", COMPLETED THIS YEAR FINDS THAT "A FALL IN THE COSTA RICAN FERTILITY RATE FROM ITS LEVEL IN 1970 WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE TOTAL COSTA RICA GNP BY THE YEAR 2,000 BUT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE COSTA RICAN GNP PER CAPITA... (EMPHASIS ADDED) GNP PER CAPITA IS INCREASED BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION IN THE LABOR FORCE IS INCREASED." IN GENERAL, THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF DOMESTIC INSTABILITY OR DISRUPTIVE INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR DUE TO POPULATION FACTORS.

3. RE PARA 2B(1) OF REFTTEL, THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT AREA WHICH WILL STIMULATE INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE GRAVITY OF THE POPULATION PROBLEMS OF THE LDCS IS THE CURRENT WORLD-WIDE FOOD SHORTAGE AND RAPIDLY RISING COST OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS ALONG WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND INFLATION. USAID HAS DISTRIBUTED 700 COPIES OF THE SPANISH EDITION OF THE CLUB OF ROME'S STUDY "THE LIMITS OF GROWTH". LOCAL BOOKSTORES CANNOT KEEP THEM IN STOCK.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN JO 02226 112045Z

4. RE PARA 2B(2) OF REFTTEL, LOCAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL LEADERSHIP IS AWARE OF THE BENEFITS OF LOWER BIRTH RATES AND SMALLER FAMILY SIZE TOWARD IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE. HOWEVER, MOST AGONOMISTS, INCLUDING GOCR PLANNING MINISTRY LEADERSHIP, DO NOT ADEQUATELY INCORPORATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS INTO THEIR PLANNING. THIS IS DUE TO SEVERAL FACTORS:

(1) LACK OF INTEREST IN LONG-TERM (10-20 YEARS) PLANNING.

(2) INSUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE AND PRODUCTIVITY IN ECONOMIC PLANNING. CONAPO IS AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND IS WORKING ON IT, PARTLY THROUGH ATTEMPTING TO INTEREST THE PLANNING MINISTRY IN A TEMPO II SECTORAL STUDY.

5. RE PARA 2C OF REFTTEL, THE U.S. SHOULD EXPAND ITS POPULATION ASSISTANCE EFFORT TO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE COMPREHENSIVE POPULATION PROGRAMS. A MUCH GREATER PERCENTAGE OF THESE FUNDS SHOULD BE EXPENDED ON TRAINING INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATORS, DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPULATION INFORMATION PROGRAMS AND FUNDING ACTION PROGRAMS TO BRING THE MESSAGE OF POPULATION PROBLEMS AND FAMILY PLANNING TO LEADERSHIP AND THE POPULACE. WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM AND VOLUNTARY ACTION TO REDUCE BIRTH RATES THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE LEFT IN 20 YEARS MAY BE COERCION. UP TON HE PRESENT TOO MUCH FUNDING HAS GONE INTO UNREALISTICALLY HIGH COST FP SERVICES WITH NOT ENOUGH EFFORT FOCUSED ON EDUCATING THE LEADERSHIP AND OPINION-MAKERS ABOUT THE DIMENSIONS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEM. LOCAL POLITICAL AND HEALTH LEADERSHIP WILL DEVELOP LOW COST FAMILY PLANNINGSSEPVERY SERVICES ONCE CONVINCED. THE FORM OF U.S. ASSISTANCE, GIVEN THE CRISIS OF THE 70S, MUST CONTINUE TO BE THE BEST MIX OF BILATERAL AND/OR MULTILATERAL AND/OR PRIVATE SOURCES TAILORED FOR EACH COUNTRY SITUATION. NO STANDARD FORMULA EXISTS BUT STRATEGIES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.

6. THE STYLE OF ACTION OF ALL U.S. POPULATION OFFICIALS IS CRITICAL FOR SUCCESS. THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED RIGOROUSLY:

(A) AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATION AND ANY SUGGESTION OF DISRESPECT FOR NATIONAL CULTURAL VALUES OR PROGRAM POLICIES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN JO 02226 112045Z

(B) ALL U.S. POPULATION FUNDS SHOULD BE EXPENDED IN PROGRAMS THAT RELATE REDUCED POPULATION GROWTH TO GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDIVIDUAL BETTERMENT. THIS PRINCIPLE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.

(C) ALL U.S. INITIATIVES SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH OTHER POPULATION PROGRAM EFFORTS.
LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FAMILY PLANNING, FUND ALLOTMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), POPULATION MOVEMENTS, POPULATION DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO02226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740150-0938
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740656/aaaabvse.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SPM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 112325
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVIEW OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
TAGS: SPOP, ECON, US, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005